

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Vollintine Hills Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Vollintine, Brown, McLean, and Evergreen N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Memphis NA ☐ vicinity

stat Tennessee code TN county Shelby code 157 zip code 38107
 e _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Vollintine Hills Historic District

Name of Property

Shelby County, TN

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
103	12	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
103	12	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Residential Resources of Memphis, Shelby County, TN

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Modernist Ranch

OTHER: Minimal Traditional

International

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

walls WOOD, BRICK, STONE

ASPHALT SHINGLES, Aluminum, Vinyl

roof ASPHALT SHINGLES

other WOOD, BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE**Period of Significance**

1946-1957

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Awsumb, George; Gruber, Herman;

Multiple; unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

City of Memphis

Vollintine Hills Historic District

Name of Property

Shelby County, TN

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 30 acres 409 NW and 409 NE**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>773228</u>	<u>3895445</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>227167</u>	<u>3895428</u>

3	<u>16</u>	<u>227101</u>	<u>3895057</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>15</u>	<u>773238</u>	<u>3895115</u>

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith Johnsonorganization Judith Johnson and Associates date January 2, 2007street & number 176 Windover Cove Apt. 1 telephone (901) 324-4618city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38111

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name More than fifty

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Vollintine Hills Historic District
Shelby County, Tennessee

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Vollintine Hills Historic District (hereafter called district) is a cohesive collection of mid-20th century mostly residential buildings located approximately four miles east of the central business district in the northern section of the Midtown area of Memphis. The buildings within the district are a representation of intact and homogenous residential building stock constructed between 1946-1957 in conjunction with the development of Baron Hirsch Synagogue. The original 1946 plat for the neighborhood included a large reserved parcel for the eventual construction of the synagogue, which completed its first phase in 1950-52. The district's single-family and duplex residential buildings are in good condition, ranging in height from one to two stories in the Minimal Traditional, Massed Ranch and Traditional Ranch forms. All of the structures on interior streets are single-family with duplexes mostly found on the exterior streets of Evergreen and McLean. All are wood frame construction, with gable, hip, or hip-and-gable asphalt shingle roofs. They are generally clad in brick or native stone veneers or weatherboard. The windows are steel frame casement, picture, and double-hung. The occasional rear additions convey use over time and do not detract from the district's ability to convey the feeling and associations of historical significance. Outbuildings are mostly single or double bay garages clad in brick, weatherboard, or asbestos siding. Most feature a gable-front or hip roof and are in good condition.

Vollintine Hills Historic District is bounded by Evergreen Street on the west, McLean Boulevard on the east, Vollintine Avenue on the south, and Brown Avenue on the north. The neighborhoods surrounding the district are also predominately residential in nature: to the immediate west, south, and east of the district are the respective National Register Historic Districts: 1) Vollintine Evergreen Avalon (NR 5/23/97); 2) Vollintine Evergreen (NR 4/12/96); and 3) Vollintine Evergreen North (NR 5/23/97).

Surrounded by residences just as planned, the Baron Hirsch Synagogue is a pivotal building in the district. The architect designed, International Style, steel frame construction and grey limestone clad building was built in two phases from 1950-52 and 1955-57 and is set on a 12.4 acre site located at the southwest corner of the district. The district's integrity of setting is evoked by the streets including the wide north/south major thoroughfares of Evergreen Street and McLean Boulevard. Vollintine Avenue is a major east/west thoroughfare that connects the district with its adjacent larger neighborhood historic districts. The district's more intimate interior streets, consisting of Hawthorne, Idlewild, and Monticello, are curvilinear and feature broad setbacks, expansive lawns, sidewalks, and cohesive architectural styling. They are within walking distance of the former synagogue and originally served to house its Jewish orthodox congregation.

In summary, the district is a collection of largely intact buildings and structures built around a religious structure that offers a unique example of post-World War II architectural styles in the Midtown area from an era when residential growth was taking place in the far flung new suburbs and which continues to be a viable area today, adapting to changing times and needs. The area's physical development, defined by the needs of a religious community shaped the district into a clearly definable geographic area, readily distinguishable from surrounding properties. The district is unified both by its historic building stock as well as its contiguity to the former synagogue.

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Glossary of Survey Terms Used in the Inventory

Minimal Traditional

Dominating Memphis architecture from ca. 1935-1950, this overwhelmingly popular house type is found throughout the entire district. It has a simplified form and detailing that stems from Colonial Revival precedents, but with a lower roof pitch, at least one front-facing gable or chimney, and height of one to one-and-one-half stories. Porches are often small and may be either sheltered by the main roof or have a separate roof. Stylistic embellishments are most often found at the entrance. Like the Minimal Ranch, it often features a prominent picture window. Minimal Traditional houses are often a pre-ranch form and have Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival influence.¹

Survey terms from “Residential Resources of Memphis MPS (additional documentation)”:

The earliest type, known as Minimal Ranch, reflects the early growing popularity of ranch design, as it was an outgrowth from older double-pile cottages. Most often found in suburban housing projects, clustered together on curved streets with small lots it blends features of both Minimal Traditional and the newer modernist ranch. Its characteristics included side-gabled roofs and a strict linear plan and footprint. Integral garages were often small, thus allowing only a single car. Like other ranch forms and the Minimal Traditional style, the Minimal Ranch often featured a prominent picture window.

The Massed Ranch represents a later common subtype without the defining element of a linear plan; however, it did exhibit many of the same features of the Minimal Ranch. Its distinction is derived from its differing footprint, width and depth. It generally did not present as wide a frontage to the street as did the more familiar full Traditional Ranch that is known for its horizontal form. Instead, it extends much deeper. Garages are typically attached, but not integral as found on Traditional Ranch examples. Massed Ranch houses were generally built on smaller and older lots.

The last form, known as the Traditional Ranch, traces its development from the mid-1930s, but saw its popularity rise in the early 1950s and flourish throughout the 1960s. The “rambling” ranch featured a horizontal orientation, asymmetrical facade, and a dominant low-pitch roof. It was loosely based on early Spanish Colonial precedents of the American southwest, modified by influences borrowed from Craftsman and Prairie modernism of the early 20th century. The footprint of the house usually featured an “L” or “U,” but sometimes cross or linear plans were found. Native stone, brick, or a combination of the two, were most typically used wall cladding. The use of casement windows, often seen in bands, complements the horizontal form.²

¹ John Hopkins, Marsha Oates, and Michael Sicuro, “Residential Development in Memphis 1865-1960 National Register Nomination (Additional Documentation),” (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2001), E-2.

² Ibid.

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Of the 79 principal buildings in the district, 34 are Minimal Traditional houses, 26 are Traditional Ranch houses, 17 are Massed Ranch houses, one is a Tudor Revival house (#66), and one is the International style synagogue (#79). Only three principal buildings are noncontributing. One of these is altered and the other two are just outside the period of significance. The majority of the noncontributing resources are garages.

INVENTORY

A survey of resources in the Vullintine Hills Historic District was prepared by Judith Johnson and Michael Sicuro in May 2006.

Note on Contributing/Noncontributing Buildings: Buildings in Vullintine Hills Historic District are listed as contributing (C) if they were built within the period of significance, retain integrity, and add to the historic sense of time and place of the district. Noncontributing buildings (NC) were built within the last fifty years or are historic buildings that have been altered to a degree that has substantially diminished their historic integrity. This notation follows each address and is also given at the end of each outbuilding description.

EVERGREEN STREET

1. Evergreen 1024-26 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional duplex built in 1947. Gable roof with box cornice. Windows are 4/4, 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung sashes, some in pairs or as a band of three. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security door.
2. Evergreen 1030-32 (C). One-story, 6-bay brick veneer Minimal Traditional duplex built in 1957. Gable roof with two gable-front projections with boxed cornice. Three-quarter-length shed roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are multi-light casements. Entrances are 2-light Colonial Revival doors.

Garage, 1957 (C). One-story, 1-bay, vinyl siding, gable roof.

3. Evergreen 1038-40 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1957. Complex hip roof with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 double-hung and single-light stationary picture. Single-bay hip roof porch with wrought iron support. Entrance has a staggered 3-light slab door.

Garage, 1957 (C). One-story, 1-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

4. Evergreen 1046 (NC). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer and vinyl siding Minimal Traditional house built in 1947 and altered ca. 2000 with porch enclosure and addition to façade. Multiple gable roofs with box cornice. Windows are single-light stationary picture with 4/4 single-hung sashes flanking, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, multi-light casements, and replacement 6/6 aluminum single-hung sashes. Entrance has stone veneer with single-light round arch door. One-bay porte-cochere with brick piers.

Shed, date of construction unknown (NC). One-story, one-bay, board siding, gable roof.

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HAWTHORNE STREET

5. Hawthorne 954 (NC). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1963. Multiple gable roofs with wide eaves. One-bay undercut porch. Windows are banded 4-light stationeries. Gable-front roof projecting for double garage.

6. Hawthorne 964 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer and board siding, Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. One-story, 1-bay porch with shed roof and wrought iron support. Windows are 2-light casements and ribbon windows set high up below cornice. Entrance has a replacement door. Attached single-bay carport at facade.

7. Hawthorne 970 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer and board and batten siding, Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Complex hip roofs with wide eaves. Three-quarter length truncated hip roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 1/1 single-hung and single-light stationary picture flanked with multi-light paired casements. Entrance has a slab door. Attached single-bay garage with vinyl siding.

8. Hawthorne 976 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1951. Multiple hip roof with box cornice. Windows are single-light stationeries flanked by 5-light sidelights. Recessed entry features a non-visible door due to a wrought iron security door.

9. Hawthorne 982 (NC). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer, Massed Ranch house built in 1958. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. One-bay undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are single-light stationary picture and sliding. Slab door with 3-light sidelight.

10. Hawthorne 988 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Hip roof with hip roof projection and box cornice. Windows are 2/2 aluminum single-hung sashes in the following: wraparound, pairs, and as a band of three. Recessed entry has a slab door.

Garage, 1951 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap and vertical board siding, gable-front roof.

11. Hawthorne 994 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with hip roof projection and flush eaves. Single-bay undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 6/6 and 4/4 double-hung sashes with aluminum shed roof window hoods. Entrance has a slab door.

Garage, date unknown (NC). One-story, 1-bay, aluminum siding, gable-front roof.

12. Hawthorne 1002 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Gable-on-hip roof with hip roof projection and wide eaves. Windows are multi-light casements, mostly as wraparounds. Recessed entry has a non-visible door due to a wrought iron security door and decorative wrought iron screen.

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Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, one-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

13. Hawthorne 1010 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer and vinyl siding Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves. Partial-width undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 6/6 double-hung, some shuttered and single-bay stationary picture flanked by 4/4 double-hung sashes. Entrance has a slab door.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 1-bay, board siding, gable-front roof.

14. Hawthorne 1017 (C). One-story with basement level, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1953. Multiple hip roofs with gable-fronts and wide eaves. Windows are multi-light casements. Entrance has a slab door with multi-light sidelight. Front stoop with brick stairs and wrought iron railing.

15. Hawthorne 1018 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1950. Multiple hip roof with wide eaves. Single-bay undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sashes, some as a pair, and single-bay stationary picture flanked by 2/2 double-hung wood sashes.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, bays not visible, lap siding, hip roof.

16. Hawthorne 1025 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1949. Gable roof with a gable-front and flush eaves. Single-bay gable-front roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 8/8 double-hung wood sashes and 6/6 double-hung wood sashes in a band of three. Entrance has a 4-light Colonial Revival door.

17. Hawthorne 1026 (C). One-story, 2-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1951. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. Partial-width undercut porch. Windows are 2/2 single-hung wood sashes and single-light stationary picture flanked by 2/2 double-hung wood sashes. Entrance has a slab door.

18. Hawthorne 1031 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1951. Gable roof with box cornice and returns. Half-width gable-front roof porch with fluted box columns and wrought iron support. Windows are 8/8 and 8/12 double-hung wood sash. Entrance has a 2-light Colonial Revival door with fluted pilasters.

Garage, date of construction unknown (NC). One-story, one-bay, vinyl siding, gable-front roof.

19. Hawthorne 1032 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Gable roof with two hip roof projections and flush eaves. Windows are 2/2 single-hung wood sashes, some a pair and 8/8 single-hung wood sash. Entrance has a replacement 2-light diamond pattern door.

20. Hawthorne 1041 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1951. Gable roof with gable-front roof projection and flush eaves. Single-bay gable-front roof porch supported by

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wrought iron. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes, some as a pair or band of three. Entrance has a 6-panel Colonial Revival door.

Garage, 1951 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap siding, gable-front roof.

21. Hawthorne 1042 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer and board siding Traditional Ranch house built in 1956. Gable roof with two hip roof projections and wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 single-hung sashes. Entrance door is non-visible. Attached one-bay carport with metal pole supports.

22. Hawthorne 1047 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer and vinyl siding Minimal Traditional house built in 1951. Gable roof with flush eaves. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes. Recessed entry features 3-panel double doors and a 3-light sidelight.

Garage, date of construction unknown (NC). One-story, 1-bay, dryvit clad, gable-front roof.

23. Hawthorne 1048 (C). One-story, 3-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Hip roof with central hip roof projection and flush eaves. Partial-width undercut porch with wrought iron. Windows are 2/2 wood sash and single-light stationary. Off-center entrance features a slab door.

Garage, 1951 (C). One-story, 1-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

IDLEWILD STREET

24. Idlewild 947 (C). One-story, six-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Multiple hip roofs with hip roof projection and wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 single-hung. Recessed entry door is not visible due to wrought iron security door.

25. Idlewild 948 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1950. Hip roof with wide eaves. Windows are single-light stationary picture flanked by 2/2 single-hung and individual 2/2 single-hung. Entrance has a staggered 3-light slab door.

Garage, 1958 (NC). One-story, 1-bay, concrete block, hip roof.

26. Idlewild 951 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Gable roof with flush eaves. Partial-width undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are multi-light casements in pairs, wraparound multi-light casements at gable-front projection, and large multi-light stationary picture. Recessed entry with slab door and full-length 3-light sidelight.

27. Idlewild 956 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Hip roof with hip roof projection and wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 single-hung wood sashes; some as a band of three or flanking single-light stationary windows. Recessed entry has a staggered 3-light slab door and wrought iron railing at its stoop.

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28. Idlewild 964 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with gable-front projection and flush eaves. Single-bay gable-front roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sashes and single-light stationary picture flanked by multi-light sidelights. Entrance has a non-visible door due to wrought iron security door.

29. Idlewild 965 (C). One-story, 3-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1957. Hip roof with prominent hip roof projecting carport at façade and wide eaves. Decorative brick wainscoting has ornamental wrought iron inserts on façade in a Greek Key pattern. Windows are single-light stationary. Entrance has a non-visible door due to wrought iron security door.

30. Idlewild 971 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1951. Hip roof with gable-front projection and wide eaves. Windows are paired 2/2 double-hung and single-light stationary picture flanked by 2/2 single-hung sashes. Recessed entry with horizontal 3-light slab door with full-length square multi-light sidelight.

Garage, 1951 (C). One-story, one wide bay, brick veneer, hip roof.

31. Idlewild 972 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1954. Gable roof with hip roof projection and wide eaves. Windows are 1/1 double-hung aluminum; some in pairs or as a band of three. One-bay recessed entry with wrought iron support features a slab door with full-length single-light sidelight.

32. Idlewild 978 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Hip roof with hip roof projection and wide eaves. Windows are 1/1 double-hung in bands of three of flanking a single-light stationary picture. Recessed entry has a slab door.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 1-bay, clapboard siding, gable-front roof.

33. Idlewild 979 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1955. Gable roof with wide eaves. Windows are paired single-light casements. Recessed entry has a slab door with a full-length 3-light sidelight.

34. Idlewild 984 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves. One-bay off center shed roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 8/8 double-hung, paired 6/6 double-hung, and multi-light stationary picture. Entrance has a 2-light Colonial Revival door.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 1-bay, lap siding, gable-front.

35. Idlewild 987 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1950. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 double-hung; some as a band of three. Entrance has a slab door with full-length opaque glass sidelights.

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36. Idlewild 990 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick and stone veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1954. Hip roof with hip roof projection and wide eaves. Windows are 1/1 double-hung in pairs, band of three; multi-light stationary picture window. Recessed entry has a slab door.

37. Idlewild 993 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Gable roofs with two gable-front dormer windows with 6/6 double-hung sashes and box cornice and returns. Windows are 6/6 and 12/12 double-hung sashes. Single-bay flat roof porch with wrought iron support. Entrance has a 6-panel Colonial Revival door with multi-light Colonial Revival fanlight and sidelights.

38. Idlewild 996 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1946. Gable roof with dentilled cornice, flush eaves, and gable-front projection with 6-light fanlight. Single-bay shed roof porch with wrought iron support and railing. Windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash, single-light stationary picture flanked by multi-light casements. Entrance has a 5-light Colonial Revival door with multi-light glass block sidelight. Front terrace with wrought iron railing.

39. Idlewild 1002 (C). One-story, 7-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1952. Complex hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are multi-light casements in pairs, bands, and as wrap-arounds. Single-bay flat roof porch with decorative wrought iron screening. Obscure entrance door with wrought iron security door.

40. Idlewild 1005 (C). One-story, 7-bay, brick and stone veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1952. Complex hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 single-hung sashes in bands of three. Recessed entry with replacement full-length glass door. Attached wide bay garage.

41. Idlewild 1008 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer, Massed Ranch house built in 1950. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. One-bay recessed undercut porch with two metal pole supports. Windows are 2/2 single-hung wood sashes and single-light stationary picture flanked by 2/2 single-hung. Slab entrance with full-length multi-light sidelight.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 1-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

42. Idlewild 1011 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick and stone veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1954. Complex hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are 12-light paired stationary and 2/2 double-hung sashes in bands of three. Recessed entry has a slab door with full-length 3-light sidelights. Attached rear garage.

43. Idlewild 1014 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick and lap siding veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves and 4-light fanlight in gable front porch projection. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes. Half-width gable-front porch with wrought iron support and balustrade. Entrance has a staggered 3-light slab door with lintel.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 1 wide bay, lap siding, gable-front roof.

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44. Idlewild 1019 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer, Minimal Traditional house built in 1949. Gable roof with gable-front projection with 5-light fanlight and box cornice. One-bay flat roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 2/2 single-hung and single-light stationary. Entrance has a staggered 3-light slab door.

Garage, 1949 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

45. Idlewild 1020 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick and aluminum siding veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with gable-front projection featuring a 6-light fanlight and flush eaves. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and large single-light stationary picture flanked by multi-light casements. Entrance has a single-light Colonial Revival door and is topped by a gable-front entry hood.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap siding, gable-front roof.

46. Idlewild 1027 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Gable roof with gable-front roof projection and flush eaves. Windows are 6/6 and 9/9 double-hung sashes, some as pairs, and multi-light stationary picture. Partial-width hip roof porch supported by wrought iron. Offset entry has a staggered 3-light slab door.

Carport, 1950 (C). One-story, one-open bay, lap siding, and gable-front roof porch.

47. Idlewild 1028 (C). One-story, 3-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1949. Gable roof with two gable-front projections, dentilled cornice, and flush eaves. Windows are in bands of three featuring 8/8 double-hung sashes flanked by 2/2 double-hung sashes; all topped by jack arches and keystones. Side porch is enclosed with board and batten siding. Recessed entrance has a staggered 3-light door with fluted pilasters.

Garage, 1949 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

48. Idlewild 1035 (C). One-story, 3-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves and gable-front projection. One-story, 1-bay bellcast hip roof porch covered with sheet metal and supported by wrought iron. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes in bands of three and single-light stationary picture flanked by 6/6 double-hung sashes. Entrance has a staggered 3-light door. Side entrance porch at driveway.

Garage, date of construction unknown (NC). One-story, one-bay, aluminum siding, gable roof.

49. Idlewild 1036 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1951. Gable roof with gable-front projection, dentilled cornice, and flush eaves. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and a bay window with a single-light stationary flanked by 4/4 double-hung sashes. Single-bay shed roof porch supported by wrought iron. Entrance has a 6-panel Colonial Revival door.

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50. Idlewild 1043 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1949. Gable roof with gable-front projection and flush eaves. Single-bay gable-front roof porch supported by wrought iron. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes and single-light stationary picture flanked by multi-light casement sidelights. Front terrace. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security door.

51. Idlewild 1044 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1949. Gable roof with two gable-front roof projections, one featuring a 6-light fanlight, and dentilled box cornice. Single-bay undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are multi-light casements with multi-light transoms and single-light stationary picture. Entrance has a slab door with multi-light sidelight of glass block.

52. Idlewild 1049 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer and shingle siding Traditional Ranch house built in 1951. Multiple hip roofs including two projecting hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are paired 6/6 double-hung sashes and some flanking a single-light stationary picture. Entrance has a slab door. Attached single-bay carport with steel pole supports atop an enclosed brick balustrade.

53. Idlewild 1052 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves and corbelling at ends. Windows are paired 6/6 double-hung sashes. Partial-width shed roof porch supported by box columns. Entrance has a replacement single-light door.

McLEAN BOULEVARD NORTH

54. McLean 947 (C). One-story, 3-bay, brick veneer and board siding Massed Ranch house built in 1952. Complex hip roof with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sashes, some flanking a large single-bay stationary picture window. Partial-width undercut porch supported by diamond pattern wrought iron. Offset entrance has a slab door.

55. McLean 955 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1954. Gable roof with wide eaves. One-bay undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 2/2 single-hung metal and single-light stationary picture. Entrance has a slab door.

56. McLean 963 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with gable-front projection and flush eaves. Partial-width shed roof porch with wrought iron support. Windows are 1/1 single-hung; some in pairs. Entrance door is not visible, but has 2-light sidelights.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, bays not visible, weatherboard siding, gable roof.

57. McLean 971 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1952. Complex hip roof with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 double-hung in bands of three and single-light stationary picture flanked by 2/2 double-hung sashes. Entrance has a slab door.

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58. McLean 981 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1946. Gable roof with two gable-front projections, two gable-front roof dormers, scalloped fascia board, and box cornices. Windows are stationary picture flanked by 2/2 single-hung sashes. Entrance has a replacement paneled door. Front terrace.

Garage, 1946 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap siding, gable roof.

59. McLean 1025 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional duplex built in 1953. Cross gable roof with flush eaves. Windows are matching single-light stationary pictures flanked by 2/2 double-hung sashes and individual 2/2 double-hung sashes. Single-bay hip roof porches with wrought iron support. Offset entrances have 3-light cottage doors.

Garage, 1990 (NC). One-story, vinyl siding, gable-front roof.

60. McLean 1033-35 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional duplex built in 1950. Gable roof with multiple gable-front projections and flush eaves. Windows are multi-light casements. Entrances have 2-light Colonial Revival doors.

Carport, ca. 2000 (NC). One-story, 1-bay, synthetic siding, gable-front roof.

61. McLean 1041-43 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional duplex built in 1950. Gable roof with two gable-front projections, brick corbelling, and flush eaves. Windows are multi-light casements. Central half-width shed roof porch supported by wrought iron. Entrance has 2-light Colonial Revival doors.

62. McLean 1049 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with box cornice and two gable-front dormers featuring 6/6 double-hung wood sashes. Windows are 8/8 double-hung sashes with aluminum shed window hoods. Single-bay shed roof porch with wrought iron support. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security doors.

63. McLean 1057 (C). One-and-one-half story, 3-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional/Split Level house built in 1947. Gable roof with gable-front projection and box cornice. Three-quarter length shed roof porch added at unknown date with PermaStone. Windows are stationary picture flanked by 4/4 single-hung sashes; shed window hood. Three-light modern door at entrance. Rear attached single-bay garage.

MONTICELLO DRIVE

64. Monticello 995 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Gable roof with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 single-hung aluminum sashes, some as a band of three. Recessed entry has a staggered 3-light door.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 1-bay, vinyl siding, gable-front roof.

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65. Monticello 1001 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves. Windows are multi-light casements and single-light stationary picture. Single-bay undercut porch supported by wrought iron. Entrance has a staggered 3-light slab door.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 2-bay, brick veneer, hip roof.

66. Monticello 1006 (C). One-and-one-half-story, 4-bay, brick and stucco veneer Tudor Revival split level house built in 1949. Complex gable roofs with stucco, half-timbering, and wide eaves. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes and single-light stationary picture that feature cast concrete sills and quoins. Prominent single-light stationary picture bay window near entrance. Obscured entrance with wrought iron security door and cast concrete lintel and quoin surround. House is located on prominent corner lot of McLean and Monticello. Basement level garage on Monticello elevation.

67. Monticello 1007 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer and vinyl siding Traditional Ranch house built in 1948. Multiple gable roofs with a hip roof projection and box cornices and returns. Windows are 2/2 single-hung, some in bands of three. Entrance has a 3-light vertical slab door. Stone planter bed at entry.

Garage, 1948 (C). One-story, 2-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

68. Monticello 1011 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Complex hip roof with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sashes as individuals, pairs, wraparounds, and as single-light stationary flanked by 2/2 double-hung sashes. Entrance is recessed and features a staggered 2-light slab door.

Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, one large open bay, lap siding, hip roof.

69. Monticello 1019 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Traditional Ranch house built in 1950. Hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are replacement 6/6 vinyl. Recessed entry with wrought iron support has a slab door.

Garage, ca. 2000 (NC). One-story, 1-bay, board siding, gable-front roof.

70. Monticello 1022 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1946. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are 6/6 and 4/4 double-hung sashes in pairs and bands of three. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security door and also features fluted pilasters. Attached single-bay garage.

71. Monticello 1025 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with flush eaves. Windows are 8/8 double-hung and single-light stationary picture flanked by 4/4 double-hung. Single-bay gable-front roof porch supported by wrought iron. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security door.

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Garage, 1950 (C). One-story, 2-bay, vinyl siding, gable-front roof.

72. Monticello 1030 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1951. Gable roof with gable-front "L" and flush eaves. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes, some as pairs, and multi-light stationary picture flanked by 6/6 double-hung sashes. Single-bay shed roof porch supported by wrought iron. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security door. Attached rear garage.

73. Monticello 1031 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1949. Gable roof with flush eaves and gable-front projection. Windows are 8/8 double-hung wood sashes flanked by 4/4 double-hung wood sashes; including a bay window. Entrance door is not visible due to storm door.

74. Monticello 1037 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer and lap siding Traditional Ranch house built in 1952. Hip roofs with wide eaves. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sashes as a pair or as bands of three. Entrance is recessed and features a slab door with full-length 4-light sidelight and diamond pattern stoop wrought iron balustrade.

Garage, 1952 (C). One-story, 1-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

75. Monticello 1042 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Massed Ranch house built in 1953. Multiple hip roofs with box cornice. Brick quoins on façade. Windows are 6/6 and 8/8 aluminum in pairs or bands of three. Entrance has a 6-panel Colonial Revival door with single-light sidelights topped by a bellcast entry hood.

76. Monticello 1045 (C). One-story, 4-bay, brick veneer and board and batten siding Massed Ranch house built in 1951. Multiple hip roofs with wide eaves. Half-width undercut porch with wrought iron support. Windows are paired 6/6 double-hung wood sashes and single-light stationary picture with multi-light sidelights. Entrance has a replacement single-light Colonial Revival door.

Garage, 1951, (C). One-story, 1-bay, lap siding, hip roof.

77. Monticello 1053 (C). One-story, 6-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1950. Gable roof with gable-front projection and box cornices and returns. Windows are 8/8 double-hung sashes and a bay window featuring single-light stationary flanked by 4/4 double-hung sashes. Recessed entrance has a slab door. Attached 2-bay garage at rear.

78. Monticello 1054 (C). One-story, 5-bay, brick veneer Minimal Traditional house built in 1952. Multiple gable roofs with box cornices and 6/6 double-hung sashes at gable-fronts. Windows are 8/8 double-hung sashes and single-light stationary picture flanked by 6/6 double-hung sashes. Entrance door is not visible due to wrought iron security door. Attached rear garage.

VOLLINTINE AVENUE

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79. Vollintine 1740 (C). Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ (Formerly Baron Hirsch Synagogue). Irregular plan, steel frame construction with smooth, regular coursed limestone veneer and stepped flat roof with an unelaborated roof-wall junction, two-story religious building with International style influence. Ribbon windows on façade and rear elevation are stationary-over-paired single-light hoppers with stone sills with abstract design leaded, colored glass on the ground level; additional single light casement windows outlined with narrow bas-relief molding are also found on the corners of the façade and rear elevations. The buildings regularity is relieved by a raised, tri-part main entrance located in an accentuated central block with three sets of deliberately obscured three-panel paired wood entry doors. Atop the entrance doors is inscribed "Oh, House of Jacob-Come Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord." The exterior of the building has a total of fifteen paired entries including two pairs of single light wood doors located on the north and south ends of the façade and rear elevations to provide auxiliary first floor entrances. Wall decoration is restricted to porthole windows located on the central block of the facade and rear elevations and the large blank expanse of stone wall is decorated with a stone Menorah on the east elevation. Both elevations have a divided staircase with a solid limestone balustrade.

The education building (western half of entire existing building) was begun in 1950 and completed in 1952. The sanctuary (eastern half of entire existing building) was begun in 1955 and completed in 1957.

Utility Outbuilding, (C). Rectangular container of open pattern limestone screen, ca. 1952.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vollintine Hills Historic District in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for local significance in planning and development and under Criterion C for its local architectural significance of its cohesive and largely intact collection of post-WWII residential architecture. The district's 1946-57 development reflects the planning and development efforts of members of an Orthodox religious group to accommodate their beliefs by developing a synagogue and housing for the congregation within easy walking distance. The post World War II Minimal Traditional and ranch houses reflect the predominant housing types and styles as laid out in the "Historic Residential Resources of Memphis, Shelby County, TN (Additional documentation 2002)."

Synagogue Background

The first known Jewish settlers in Tennessee were probably peddlers who moved into the area in the late 1830s and 1840s. Joseph Andrews, who came to Memphis in 1840 from Charleston, South Carolina, is regarded as the founder of the Jewish community in Memphis. Other German Jewish immigrants who joined Andrews in the 1850s included his brother Samuel, Henry Seessel, and David and Samuel Levy. Together they formed the nucleus for a Memphis Jewish community that located in the oldest settled area of Memphis known as the "Pinch." When Andrews donated the money to establish the first Jewish cemetery in Tennessee here, the group quickly realized that an organization was needed to administer it. The Hebrew Benevolent Society was formed in 1850 to serve that function and to perform acts of charity needed by Memphis Jews so that they would not be a burden on the city. Services were conducted by this group on High Holy Days until 1853 when the Congregation of B'Nai Israel (Children of Israel) became the first Memphis congregation to emerge and become chartered in 1854.³ Rabbinical reforms in the 1860s led to divisions with one group choosing to break off and form an Orthodox congregation (that would later become Baron Hirsch).⁴ Until the 1880s, the orthodox group did not have an official name and rented various halls for a place to worship.

Between 1880-1890, Memphis Jews prospered and increased in number. Unlike the first German Jewish immigrants of the 1850s, who worked as peddlers or day laborers, by now they were storekeepers and merchants. Because secular training had been difficult to achieve in Eastern Europe, education was a high priority with immigrant families who knew that through education their children would attain a better life and so their children were now working in various professions.⁵

In 1892, the orthodox group applied for a charter of incorporation for the Baron Hirsch Benevolent Society, named for a noted Austrian Jewish capitalist and philanthropist named Baron Maurice de Hirsch (1831-1896). Hirsch's Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society spent an estimated \$100 million to resettle many Jews

³ Selma Lewis, *A Biblical People in the Bible Belt: The Jewish Community of Memphis, Tennessee 1840s-1960s* (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1995), 7-9.

⁴ Sam Shankman, *Baron Hirsch Congregation from Ur to Memphis* (Memphis: Baron Hirsch Synagogue, 1957), 18.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 41.

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including the eastern European Jews who came to Memphis from Russia, Romania, and Galicia in the last quarter of the 19th century.⁶

In the same year, the congregation bought an African American church located just south of the Pinch at Fourth and Washington for \$5,000 and converted it into a synagogue. They named the synagogue in honor of Baron Hirsch as well. Benjamin Myerowitz served as their first rabbi.⁷

At the turn of the twentieth century, Russian Jew Dave Dermon immigrated to Memphis and joined the Baron Hirsch congregation. Dermon, a real estate developer and builder, provided the leadership to erect a new and larger building at the Fourth and Washington location. The new synagogue was dedicated in 1915 and razed after the congregation relocated east in 1952.⁸

1915 Baron Hirsch Synagogue, Fourth and Washington



In 1928 an adjacent Menorah Institute was built to house the religious school (Talmud Torah) and youth activities. In addition to secular schools, the immigrant parents insisted that their children attend cheders, or Hebrew schools, in the hope that such education would preserve traditions that seemed in danger of being lost in America.⁹

The Memphis Jewish community began to move eastward from the downtown core in the 1920s and 1930s as the various subdivisions that comprise the Vollintine-Evergreen Historic District (NR 4/12/1996) were developed. Since their Orthodox religion prohibited riding in motorized vehicles on the Sabbath, members began keeping Sabbath apartments downtown to attend synagogue after buying homes out in the second ring eastern suburbs.¹⁰ As an example, the Dlugach brothers, members of Baron Hirsch congregation, were residential real estate developers who developed the area encompassing the Vollintine-Evergreen Avalon Historic District (NR 5/23/1997) to the immediate west of what would become Vollintine Hills.¹¹

At the same time the Jewish community of Memphis was moving eastward, away from the synagogue, the synagogue building was becoming inadequate for the needs of the congregation. A vision for building a new modern synagogue at a more eastern location began to unfold. When the leadership began to broach the subject with the congregation, it was often met with criticism as being too daring. Member Harry Dlugach

⁶ Ibid., 38-39.

⁷ Ibid., 41-42.

⁸ Ibid., 46.

⁹ Ibid., 70-71.

¹⁰ Judith Johnson, "The Art of Architecture: Modernism in Memphis 1890-1965," 20.

¹¹ Judith Johnson, "Vollintine-Evergreen Avalon National Register Historic District Nomination," Section 8, page 4.

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made the argument that it took them thirty years to pay off \$30,000 on the old synagogue and questioned how long it would take to pay the projected one million dollars on the new one.¹²

Finally, in September 1944, a fundraising committee and a site selection committee were formed. At the January 1945 membership meeting, a resolution was passed authorizing the board to construct a synagogue and education building. On October 1945, a \$20,000 sum was authorized for the purchase of five acres of land of the McLean Vollintine Golf Course (ca. 1933-1947) at Vollintine and Evergreen. Two additional tracts of land were later purchased for an additional \$27,750. With a location decided upon, in July 1946, the congregation selected George Awsumb and Sons as the architect for the new building.¹³

Meanwhile, the downtown congregation continued to grow. By October 1947, 400 children were enrolled in the Sunday school and 175 in the Talmud Torah. During this period, Will Gerber provided leadership on the board. Gerber's family emigrated from Russia and settled in the old Pinch neighborhood where he attended Market Street School (Christine School). Later he attended Tech High and then law school in the evenings. After passing the Tennessee Bar Exam in 1923, he joined the law firm of William Tyler McLain and Lois Bejach who were part of the Boss Crump political organization. When Bejach became District Attorney, he took Gerber with him as his assistant. Gerber became a first-rate trial lawyer and in 1934, the Memphis City Attorney, at a time when no other Jews held public office either as commissioners or judges.¹⁴

Three years later in January 1950, the synagogue membership had grown to 900 families when Gerber announced, "Here is the plan for the new synagogue and here is the deed for the land. We have \$236,000 in cash, bonds, and pledges and are now ready to start building our temple. We need a professional builder, Phillip Belz, to be that builder and the new president."¹⁵ The new leadership of the congregation consisted of 1) Phillip Belz, president; 2) Sam Fortas, first vice-president; 3) Will Epstein, second vice-president; and 4) board members including George Abraham, Herman Gruber, Joseph Margolin, Aaron Shankman, et al.¹⁶

Phillip Belz, known as the "Temple Builder in Memphis," immigrated to Memphis from Galicia at age five with his family. As a young teen he played with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and later became a soloist with the Baron Hirsch choir. In 1936, as the federal government was interested in inexpensive housing for the poor, Belz and his father-in-law were tapped to build a duplex apartment subdivision with rents for \$15 a month in North Memphis. This venture, along with a suburban shopping center, was part of his first commercial development at Thomas and Firestone streets in what would become the North Memphis Industrial Park. In the 1940s, Belz also acquired control of the South Memphis Land Company that owned approximately 6,000 acres that included everything south of South Parkway between Highway 51 and the Mississippi River. Some of the industrial buildings he built to be leased included: 1) General Motors Truck Coach Division ; 2) Goodyear Company and Johnson's Wax on Thomas; 3) Firestone Retread Company and

¹² Shankman, *Baron Hirsch Congregation: From Ur to Memphis*, 117.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 118.

¹⁴ Lewis, *A Biblical People in the Bible Belt*, 69.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 120.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 124.

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U.S. Rubber Company; and 4) Bemis Bag Company and National Biscuit Company on Latham. The Belz Company became Tennessee's largest commercial and industrial property company. Always devoted to his faith and Baron Hirsch, Belz made significant donations during this period including the building of the Vollintine synagogue, and to the new state of Israel. In 1958, Israel awarded him the title "Man of the Decade."¹⁷

The first phase of Baron Hirsch's construction was the \$350,000 Education Building, a two-story steel frame and reinforced concrete building of stone featuring 16 classrooms, an 800-seat hall, kitchen, and basement heating plant.¹⁸ The congregation met there for the first time in January of 1952. The Ladies Auxiliary raised \$48,000 to be used to equip the Education Building and maintained a library in the Education Building.¹⁹ Later, after the main sanctuary was completed, this group maintained the Ritualarium in adherence to Jewish laws and funded landscaping of the synagogue's property.²⁰

After the completion of the Education Building, the capital campaign continued to raise additional funds for the construction of the main sanctuary as a number of members pledged yearly contributions for the remainder of their lives and others made yearly pledges until the entire building program was completed. During this period, the mortgage was paid-off on the Education Building, which was helped by the sale of the Menorah Institute at the old Fourth and Washington location.²¹ The former Menorah Institute building is owned and used by the City of Memphis today.²²

In 1955, Phillip Belz traveled to Jerusalem to select what would become the congregation's 700 pound pink marble cornerstone from a quarry in the hills of Judea. The cement to hold the stone in place at the new auditorium contained a sack of earth from Mt. Zion brought back by Rabbi and Mrs. Isadore Goodman. The laying of the cornerstone was a three day celebration from November 25-27, 1955. This marked the beginning of the final stage of construction of the main sanctuary adjacent to the existing education building.

Work on the main sanctuary began in 1955 with completion in 1957.²³ The main sanctuary was the largest in the country according to the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.²⁴

By the time the synagogue was completed, Baron Hirsch had the largest membership of any Orthodox Jewish synagogue in the southeast and was one of the largest orthodox congregations in the country with 1,100 member families totaling about 4,000 persons.

¹⁷ Lewis, *A Biblical People in the Bible Belt*, 89.

¹⁸ "First Step Toward Education Building," *Memphis Press Scimitar*, August 10, 1950.

¹⁹ Shankman, *Baron Hirsch Congregation: From Ur to Memphis*, 128.

²⁰ Baron Hirsch Centennial 1864-1964, 48.

²¹ Shankman, *Baron Hirsch Congregation: From Ur to Memphis*, 129.

²² "Building Debt is Retired: Synagogue to Give Thanks," *Memphis Press Scimitar*, December 5, 1944.

²³ "25 Years Ago," *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, October 20, 1982.

²⁴ "Orthodox Synagogue to be Dedicated November 28-30," *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, October 21, 1957. (It is not clear if this is just for Orthodox synagogues or a broader group.)

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The temple's Norwegian born architect George Awsumb was born in 1880, reared in Wisconsin, started working in barn construction in 1898, and graduated with an architecture degree from the University of Illinois in 1906. After working for J.C. Llewellyn of Chicago for two years, he received a traveling scholarship to study the architecture of France and England. After his return to Chicago, he taught design at the Art Institute. Awsumb moved to Memphis from Chicago in 1919 after he partnered with local architect Charles O. Pfeil to win the design competition for the old 1920-24 Municipal Auditorium and Market House on Main Street. His prolific design career in Memphis included the 1923-24 Humes Junior High School at 659 Manassas (NR 7/12/04) and the 1926-27 Gothic style Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Midtown. Awsumb also served as a member of the design team for the 1935-38 Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project downtown (NR 7/25/96).²⁵ His prior projects specifically for Jewish clients included the 1925 Dermon Building at 46 N. Third Street (NR 3/15/84) and the 1941 Samuel Abraham Chapel at Baron Hirsch Cemetery. The sole International style private residence in Memphis, the 1948-49 Walker Wellford House was also designed by Awsumb. This residence has a steel-frame structure, reinforced concrete floors, a third floor roof terrace and fieldstone wall cladding, a perfect example of Modernist architect Le Corbusier's ideas of the house as a "machine for living."²⁶

According to reports when it was constructed, the 75,000 square feet, gray limestone clad, rectilinear International style sanctuary building cost \$1,600,000 to construct. The sloping north side of the building had a ground level drive to the basement entrance within a few feet of the elevator. The exterior walks were Crab Orchard stone. Interior lobbies were white oak with the walls of the other public areas being travertine marble and terrazzo floors except the carpeted main sanctuary. The first floor youth synagogue had 500 seats. The basement housed a game room, lounge, and canteen with seating for 600. The Mikvah (ritual bathhouse), also located within the basement, featured a tile pool and preparation room.²⁷

The focal point was the second floor main sanctuary that provided seating for 700. Its walls were walnut and plaster with an acoustical tile ceiling painted blue with six-pointed gold stars placed at random.²⁸ The ark had bronze doors and other bronze symbolism. The sanctuary's twelve stained glass windows were designed by Jack Grue (1896-1956), done in collaboration with architect George Awsumb. The windows featured the following: 1) The Flood and Rainbow; 2) Stars depicting Abraham's search for God among the heavenly bodies; 3) a Ladder representing Jacob's dream of angels climbing up and down; 4) Burning Bush; 5) Torah Scroll; 6) Two Hands representing the priestly blessing; 7) Eternal Light; 8) the Menorah; 9) two Shofars (ram's horns) blown on Rosh Hashanah; 10) Crown worn by Jewish kings descended from David; 11) two main Pillars of King Solomon's temple; 12) map of modern Israel.²⁹

Grue, a Russian-born Jew, studied at Kiev's Ukrainian Academy and then worked in Vienna until 1939. At that time he immigrated to the United States and settled in Memphis. He produced several large paintings

²⁵ Michael Sicuro, "LeMoyne College Historic District" National Register Nomination," Section 8, page 4.

²⁶ Johnson, "The Art of Architecture: Modernism in Memphis 1890-1965," 20.

²⁷ Shankman, *Baron Hirsch Congregation: From Ur to Memphis*, 132-33.

²⁸ "Orthodox Synagogue To Be Dedicated November 28-30," *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, October 21, 1957.

²⁹ Ibid.

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for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Central Gardens Historic District (NR 9/9/1982) between 1938 and 1949. He was one of only three Americans to be accepted into the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers in London.

During the 1950s, other Memphis Jewish congregations experienced growth and movement as well. In 1950, Anshei Sphard held a ground-breaking ceremony for its new synagogue at North Parkway and Bellevue in the Speedway-Terrace Historic District (NR 3/19/1999). Temple Israel, which moved to Midtown at Poplar and Montgomery in 1916, dedicated its new school building in 1951 and began to make plans for a celebration of its 100th anniversary in 1954. Beth El Emeth, while remaining downtown, remodeled its synagogue at 165 Poplar Avenue in the 1950s. The first Conservative congregation in the city, Beth Sholom (House of Peace), celebrated its first service on February 11, 1955 at the B'Nai B'rith Home.³⁰

By the late 1960s, some of the same forces which necessitated the Baron Hirsch congregation's move from their original downtown location - increasing mobility of the congregation and the necessity of their Orthodox Sabbath observances - returned to plague them. By then most of the membership had moved further east that necessitated traveling considerable distances to attend Sabbath services at Vollintine so they were now forced to maintain a second Sabbath home or rent rooms near the Vollintine synagogue. The Conservative Beth Sholom Congregation built a new synagogue much further out east in 1966 which exerted further pressure on the Baron Hirsch congregation to relocate further east as well.

In 1968, a committee consisting of Dr. Harold Cohen, Phillip Belz, Sam Margolin, Jack Belz, Irby Cooper, Jake Belz, and Herman Gruber, (some of who had served on the first committee in the 1940s) was formed to look into relocating the synagogue out east. By 1975 the congregation was considering building the new synagogue on property near Yates and I-240, one of several sites considered during seven years of study. By 1977 the remaining two Jewish congregations had sold their inner-city facilities and moved eastward just inside the I-240 perimeter, leaving Baron Hirsch the only Jewish congregation remaining in the first ring of Memphis suburbs.

A February 1977 newspaper article stated. "Baron Hirsch Congregation has purchased the east Memphis residence of Isaac Hayes, but a spokesman said today there are no immediate plans to discontinue services at the main facility at the now centrally located Vollintine location. The Baron Hirsch facility at Shady Grove & Yates that had been used for several years prior for youth activities and worship services would be moved to the new facility as well. 'The Hayes home is mostly to be used as a house of worship for our members who live in that immediate area,' said Rabbi Rafael Grossman."³¹

After the new synagogue on Yates was completed, the Vollintine property went on the market in 1984 at an asking price of \$3.5 million. It languished unsold until 1992 when Baron Hirsch president Andy Groveman

³⁰ Lewis, *A Biblical People in the Bible Belt*, 179-80.

³¹ "Baron Hirsch to Purchase former Hayes Home," *The Commercial Appeal* [Memphis, TN], February, 1977.

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announced that the members had voted to sell to the facility to the Gethsemane Garden Church of God in Christ for \$550,000. That congregation continues to occupy the building today.³²

Subdivision Development

The land surrounding the Baron Hirsch Synagogue was platted July 27, 1946 by commercial real estate developer Herman Gruber as the Vollintine Hills Subdivision on land he had purchased from prominent residential real estate developer John B. Goodwin. Vollintine Hills was given protective covenants (later struck down by the Supreme Court) to include the following: 1) only whites could be primary residents although African American domestic servants could live-in; 2) no trailers, garages, or barns could be temporary structures; 3) no structure could be built costing less than \$8,000; 4) ground floors must be 1,250 square feet; and 5) no house could be built within 10 years of the original plat until the plan specifications and plot plan were approved in writing by the developer or his designers so that they conformed and harmonized with the external design of existing structures in the subdivision.³³

Gruber, a trustee at Baron Hirsch congregation, and his family lived on University Street.³⁴ Romanian born Gruber's family immigrated to the United States when he was seven years old. He attended the old downtown Market Street School and Moore Tech High School where he studied architectural drawing, which would ultimately direct him to real estate. At fifteen he left school to take a job at the architectural firm of Gaines and Carlisle and later became a draftsman for the architectural firm of Pfeil and Awsumb. He worked as an estimator and advanced to become superintendent of construction before becoming a loan appraiser specializing in residential property around Memphis. In September 1930 he founded the real estate firm of Lazarov and Gruber with Joe Lazarov.³⁵ By 1937, he had formed Herman Gruber and Company of which he served as president. In 1938, the company built three upper middle-class homes on Grandview Street designed by architect Polk W. Agee, while also developing the Central Park Community near Rosemary Lane in the Central Gardens Historic District (NR 9/9/1982). Gruber was also a pioneer shopping center developer responsible for the ca.1955 Lamar and Airways Shopping Center on Highway 78 (Lamar Avenue) as well as shopping centers in Dyersburg and Union City and Jonesboro, Arkansas.³⁶

The architectural styling found in Vollintine Hills residences showcases two new styles that would largely shape the suburban landscapes of the mid-twentieth century. The Minimal Traditional style was used almost exclusively from 1935 to ca.1950 and the Modernist Ranch style emerged by the end of Vollintine Hills' period of significance.

³² "Members OK Sale of old Baron Hirsch Site" *The Commercial Appeal*, June 1992.

³³ Herman Gruber's Vollintine Hills Subdivision.

³⁴ "Herman Gruber One Dealer Who Knows All Phases of Real Estate Business." *Memphis Press Scimitar*, February 18, 1936.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

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Predating the synagogue, the district's residential structures begin in 1946 and represent the cost-saving preference for scaled-down Colonial Revival detailing found in the Minimal Traditional style houses in the district. Houses range from the required 1,250 square feet to 1,600 square feet. Typical examples in Vollintine Hills such as 1025 Hawthorne, 964 Idlewild, and 984 Idlewild compare favorably with those found in the High Point Terrace Historic District (NR 12/12/2002), Green Meadows/Poplar Glen Historic District (NR 4/22/2003), and Normal Station Historic District (NR 8/10/2005).

The country's increasing dependence on the automobile is reflected in the Rambler or Ranch house. Usually constructed with built-in garages on larger lots, this style begins to appear in the district by the early 1950s. Square footage of some these ranch houses ranged from 1,800 to over 3,000 square feet. The above referenced historic districts share commonalities with Vollintine Hill's representation of Modernist Ranch houses. In the High Point Terrace Historic District, numerous examples on Eastland Street reflect Vollintine Hills' examples (951 Idlewild and 955 McLean) in with their low-slung hip roof lines, "L" shaped forms, and casement windows (often placed in groupings). A prescient single example of the modern Split Ranch form utilizes the topography of the district but displays traditional Tudor detailing (1057 McLean). Vollintine Hills' Ranch houses are unique for Memphis in regard to their uncommon use of natural stone, such as the pink ashlar granite used at 990 Idlewild and narrow irregular coursed Arkansas fieldstone at 1011 Idlewild.

The Traditional Ranch house at 1007 Monticello features an elongated planter bed at the façade made of native stone. Examples of ranches found at 947 McLean and 1002 Idlewild also feature unique original decorative wrought iron screening and supports at their entrances.

The vast majority of the original owners of the homes in Vollintine Hills were members of Baron Hirsch. The 1955 City Directory lists Rabbi Isadore and Mrs. Goodman, the pastor of Baron Hirsch, as living at 1017 Hawthorne and Rabbi Joseph Martin, the assistant rabbi of Baron Hirsch, at 1033 McLean. Several residents were grocers such as: 1) Irvin Lubin, 1025 Hawthorne, Lubin's Grocery; 2) Abraham Bensky, 1026 Hawthorne, Vance Avenue Market; 3) Abe Elster, 1008 Idlewild, WeOna Food Store #127; 4) Jacob Elster, 1035 Idlewild, WeOna Food Store #26; and 5) Charles Rothschild, 1014 Idlewild, Fourth Street Grocery. Hyman Ziskind, the Vice-President of Herman Gruber & Co. lived at 1032 Hawthorne. Professionals included: 1) dentists Dr. Louis Levitch at 1018 Hawthorne and Dr. Victor Hershman at 964 Idlewild; 2) chemist Victor Brog at 978 Idlewild; and 3) druggist Michl Jablin at 1011 Idlewild. Harold Katz, 1002 Hawthorne, and Kolman Katz, 1057 McLean, operated Katz Brothers Drug Store.³⁷

Many other prominent families that were members of the congregation also lived outside Vollintine Hills, but close to the synagogue. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Belz and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Belz, they included the following: 1) M/M Jacob Belz, who lived on Bellair Circle across from Overton Park in Midtown Memphis; 2) M/M Aaron Brenner; 3) M/M Avron Fogleman; 4) M/M Isaac Gruber; 5) M/M

³⁷ City Directory, 1955.

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Bernard Lansky; 6) M/M Julius Lewis; 7) M/M Ben, Joe, and Sam Margolin, one of who lived just south of Vullintine, a block or two from this historic district; and 8) M/M Joe Shankman.³⁸ These families were prominent real estate developers and retailers in Memphis.

According to City Directory of 1970, all the original residents basically remained (white and Jewish).³⁹ Beginning in 1975 the racial composition of the neighborhood began to transition as notable new African American residents such as attorneys and a few ministers began to purchase homes in the district. Walter Bailey, a lawyer is shown living at 1019 Idlewild and Rev. Cleophus Person at 1001 Monticello. At 1037 Monticello, Baron Hirsch was using a house as meeting space. In 1980, living at 1008 Idlewild was the Rev. James Truehart, pastor of Prince of Peace Baptist Church.

By 1985 when the Orthodox congregation's synagogue had moved east, the residents had changed from predominately Jewish to predominately black. The residence at 1019 Idlewild was still occupied by Walter Bailey, Jr., a lawyer with Bailey, Bailey, and Stokes and at 1856 Monticello is D'Army Bailey, a lawyer in same firm. Over at 1886 Monticello is Joe Brown with TVA.

Within the context of architecture in Memphis, the Vullintine Hills Historic District bears similarities to the High Point Terrace Historic District (NR 12/12/2002), Green Meadows/Poplar Glen Historic District (NR 4/22/2003), and Normal Station Historic District (NR 8/10/2005) in that they all began development at the same time and so they share similar housing styles and types. However, while the Vullintine Hills district was post WWII speculative housing it is an example of planning and development by a member of a religious congregation for observance of certain prohibitions of their Orthodox religion.

³⁸ Baron Hirsch Centennial Directory 1864-1964.

³⁹ Memphis City Directory, R.L. Polk & Co.[Taylor, Michigan], 1970

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Vollintine Hills Historic District are Vollintine Avenue on the south, Brown Avenue on the north, the east parcels of Evergreen Street, and the west parcels of McLean Boulevard.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Vollintine Hills Historic District include the entire subdivision as plated in 1946.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by: Judith Johnson
Judith Johnson & Associates
Date: April 5, 2006
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

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View toward Hawthorne, view to NE from Vollintine

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Evergreen, view SE from Brown

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Hawthorne, view N from Vollintine

4 of 10
Hawthorne, view SE from Brown

5 of 10
Idlewild, view NW from Vollintine

6 of 10
Idlewild, view SE from Brown

7 of 10
McLean, view NW from Vollintine

8 of 10
Monticello, view NW from McLean

9 of 10
Monticello, view SE from Brown

10 of 10
McLean, view SW from Brown